

REMARKS

Claims 1-82 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5-6, 11, 13, 17, 20, 23, 25, 29-30, 35, 37, 42, 46-47, 52, 54, 58, 61, 64, 66, 76 have been amended. Claims 4, 12, 28, 36, 45, 53, 69, 77 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-3, 7, 11, 23, 25-27, 31, 35, 40, 42-44, 48, 52, 64, 66-68, 72, 76 and 81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Starker et al. (US 6,862,457), “Starker” herein after. Claims 4-6, 8-10, 12-22, 24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-39, 41, 45-47, 49-51, 53-63, 65, 69-71, 73-75, 77-80 and 82 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Minor editorial changes have been made to claims 5-6, 17, 20, 23, 29-30, 37, 46-47, 54, 58, 61, 64, 70-71 and 78. Claims 1, 11, 25, 35, 52, 66 and 76 have been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 4, 12, 28, 36, 45, 53, 69 and 77, respectively, which were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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